

In the specification, at page 1, between lines 11 and 12, please insert as follows:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

In the specification, at page 3, line 16, please delete "The".

In the specification, at page 3, between lines 16 and 17, please insert as follows:

--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

In the specification, at page 5, between lines 15 and 16, please insert as follows:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows a photograph of an IIF (indirect immunofluorescence) assay on *T.*

equigenitalis in the presence of AcM according to the invention.

Fig. 2 shows a photograph of an immunoblot after reaction of proteins of *T.*

equigenitalis with AcM of the invention and immunized mouse serum (positive serum).

Fig. 3 shows a photograph of a dot blot carried out on the non-denatured proteins of a reference strain of *T. equigenitalis* and incubated with the AcM according to the invention, a positive mouse serum (SP) or a negative mouse serum (SN) (un-immunized mouse).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

In the specification, at page 8, please delete from "In these" on line 17 through line 30, and insert in place thereof the heading --EXAMPLES--.

C3
In the specification, at page 11, line 12, after "HAT-DMEM" please insert --
(Hypoxanthine, Aminopterin and Thymidine-Dulbecco Minimum Essential Medium)--.

In the specification, at page 17, line 27, before "ED", please insert --referred to
herein as--.

C4
In the specification, at page 24, line 38, please delete "PBS-Tween 20®" and insert
in place thereof --PBS-TWEEN 20® (phosphate buffered saline with 0.05 % nonionic
detergent Tween-Sigma, St. Louis Mo.)--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

C5
Sub E2
17/16. (Amended) Isolated and purified monoclonal [Monoclonal] antibodies or
their Fv, Fab, and F(ab')₂ fragments, which recognize an epitope of a bacterium of the
species *T. equigenitalis*, and which do not exhibit a crossed reaction with an epitope or
epitopes selected from the group consisting of epitopes of a bacterium of a different
Taylorella species, and epitopes of a bacterium whose genus is different from *Taylorella*.